

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003557
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 INRE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:CCORDER;OASD/ISA/FMRA:TKEENAN:DME
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL
AF/I:W.CARROLL
DOD:P.BARRINGER

-----087554 062031Z /50

O 061926Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF/OASD/ISA/FMRA

HQ USAF/XOXXI

AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD/FA

4950 TEST WING WPAFB OH/DOMM

USAF FREQ MGT OFC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003557

E.O. 11652:ADS-DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, KE

SUBJECT: FOREIGN OPERATING RIGHTS - ADVANCE RANGE
INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT

1. ADVANCE RANGE INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT (ARIA) ARE
UNIQUELY EQUIPPED UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT OF THE
BOEING 707 TYPE DESIGNED TO RECEIVE, RECORD, AND
RETRANSMIT IN REAL TIME, TELEMETRY SIGNALS FROM SPACECRAFT
AND LAUNCH VEHICLES DURING LAUNCH, ORBIT OR ORBITAL
INSERTION. THESE MOBILE SENSORS ENABLE SIGNALS TO BE
RECEIVED IN BROAD OCEAN AREAS AND ARE SIGNIFICANTLY
LESS EXPENSIVE AND MORE VERSATILE THAN SHIPS IN PROVIDING
THIS CRITICAL DATA. THE DATA PROVIDED BY ARIA IS USED
TO MONITOR PROGRESS, DETERMINE EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS,
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PAGE 02 STATE 003557

AND INITIATE POSSIBLE INFLIGHT CORRECTIONS OF SPACECRAFT.
THE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY ARIA INCLUDE BOTH U.S. GOVERN-
MENT AND VARIOUS FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SPACE PROGRAMS. THE
TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT ON BOARD THE ARIA IS U.S. GOVERNMENT
OWNED AND PERMANENTLY INSTALLED IN THE AIRCRAFT. THE ONLY
ON-BOARD EQUIPMENT USED WHILE AIRCRAFT IS ON THE GROUND IS
THE HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO FOR VOICE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN

CREW MEMBERS AND THE 4950 TEST WING CONTROL CENTER, WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, THROUGH THE AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK PRIOR TO SUPPORT.

2. IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANTICIPATED SPACE PROGRAM LAUNCH ACTIVITIES OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, USAF WOULD LIKE TO HAVE USE OF NAIROBI AIRPORT FOR ARIA OPERATIONS. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE ARIA TO OPERATE IN AREAS OTHERWISE UNSUPPORTABLE BECAUSE OF RANGE AND FUEL LIMITATIONS. THE RESULTANT LOITER TIME WOULD ALLOW SCHEDULES TO ABSORB UNFORESEEN DELAYS AND STILL ACQUIRE REQUIRED DATA.

3. USAF ESTIMATES THAT USE OF NAIROBI AIRPORT WOULD BE SOUGHT FOR ONE OR TWO ARIA APPROXIMATELY ONCE A YEAR. THE EARLIEST REQUIREMENT WOULD BE MAY 1978 AND REQUIREMENTS MAY CONTINUE THROUGH 1980. THE MISSION SUPPORT FLIGHT WOULD RECOVER BACK TO NAIROBI AIRPORT FOR CREW REST PRIOR TO RETURNING TO THE U.S. NO TESTING IS CONTEMPLATED IN KENYAN SOVEREIGN AIRSPACE. DETAILS ON THE SPECIFIC MISSION TO BE PERFORMED WOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE AIRCRAFT DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUESTS WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO EACH MISSION.

4. NORMAL CREW COMPLEMENT WOULD BE 6 USAF OFFICERS, 3 DOD-SPONSORED CIVILIANS, AND 13 ENLISTED. ALL CREW MEMBERS WOULD BE U.S. CITIZENS AND WOULD HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 003557

PASSPORTS WITH VISAS IF REQUIRED. THE ARIA CREW WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE LOCAL OFFICIALS A TOUR OF THE AIRCRAFT DURING THEIR STAY IN THE HOST COUNTRY.

5. SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA APPROVE THE OPERATION, 4950 TEST WING WOULD PROPOSE TO CONDUCT A FACILITIES SURVEY AT NAIROBI AIRPORT FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING SUCH THINGS AS ACTUAL AIRFIELD CONDITIONS, DETAILED AIRCRAFT SERVICING INFORMATION, WEATHER CONDITIONS AND NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND PROCEDURES. SPECIFIC DETAILS OF SUCH A SURVEY WOULD BE COORDINATED IN ADVANCE WITH THE EMBASSY.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS ON ADVISABILITY OF APPROACHING GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AT THIS TIME REGARDING USE OF NAIROBI AIRPORT FOR ARIA OPERATIONS AS DETAILED ABOVE.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE003557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CCORDER;OASD/ISA/FMRA:TKEENAN:DME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS IFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780011-0084
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780190/aaaacyjx.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bf8c01e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3816116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN OPERATING RIGHTS - ADVANCE RANGE INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MARR, OCLR, KE
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf8c01e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014